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(concluded)*

19. (Amended once) The method of Claim 18, wherein said implanting dopants includes a partial passage of ions from an ion beam through a portion of the L-shaped spacers.

20-23. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

Title

The title has been objected to as not descriptive. Although the Office Action did not specify how the title was not descriptive, Applicants assume the objection was based on the fact that the claims are limited to a method, while the title still referred to sidewall spacers as an apparatus. The title has been amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the title. If the assumption about the reason for the objection is incorrect, Applicants request an explanation of the basis for the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,150,223 ("Chern") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,976,991 ("Laxman"). Claims 15, 18, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chern in view of Laxman, in further view of U.S.

Patent No. 6,233,597 ("Miles"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendment because the cited references do not disclose or suggest all the limitations of any pending claims, as the following analysis shows.

Independent claims 1 and 11 each recite forming the first silicon oxide film at a pressure of about 10 mTorr. Support for this limitation may be found in the specification at page 9 line 31 and page 10 line 8. None of the cited references disclose or suggest using this pressure during the process. In fact, Laxman teaches the use of a significantly higher pressure of 250 mTorr (column 8 lines 17-18), while Chern and Miles do not discuss pressure at all.

Claims 2-5, 7-10 depend from claim 1, while claims 12-19 depend from claim 11, and therefore contain the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

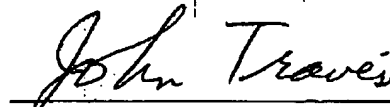
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-5 and 7-19 are in condition for allowance, and a notice of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite any further prosecution of the present application. No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and § 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11-22, 2002



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NOV 22 2002

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